



**“VILNIUS - EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITAL 2025” OPENING CEREMONY**

**22 JANUARY, 2025**

**AGENDA**

<p><b>HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL COMMITMENT CEREMONY FOR THE GREEN CITY ACCORD (GCA)</b></p> <p><b>Time:</b> 09:30 – 11:30</p> <p><b>Venue:</b> Contemporary Art Centre, Vokiečių str. 2</p>	
09:30 – 09:45	Registration and welcome coffee -
09:45 – 09:55	<p>Priorities of the new European Commission: Cities at the forefront of the implementation of the European Green Deal</p> <p>Patrick Child, Deputy Director of DG Environment of the European Commission</p>
09:55 – 10:05	<p>Presentation of the Green City Accord Report 2024</p> <p>GCA Secretariat</p>
10:05 – 10:45	<p>Roundtable: Sustainable solutions implemented by cities in the framework of the Green City Accord. One city per GCA area.</p>
10:45 – 10:55	Q&A between the participants and the panellists

10:55 – 11:30	Ceremony of commitment renewal with statements by the new GCA signatories  Mayors from 17 new signatories
<p><b>„VILNIUS – EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITAL 2025“ OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY</b></p> <p><b>Time:</b> 11:00 – 16:30</p> <p><b>Venue:</b> Contemporary Art Centre, Vokiečių str. 2</p>	
11:00 - 12:00	Registration and welcome coffee
12:00 – 12:10	Opening performance
12:10 - 12:30	<p>Welcome speeches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Valdas Benkuskas, Mayor of Vilnius</li> <li>- Ramūnas Dilba, Chief Adviser to the President of the Republic of Lithuania, Office of the President of the Republic of Lithuania</li> <li>- Povilas Poderskis, Minister of Environment</li> <li>- Marius Vaščega, Head of European Commission Representation in Lithuania</li> <li>- Jessika Roswall, EC Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy (Video message 3 min)</li> <li>- Patrick Child, Deputy Director of DG Environment of the European Commission</li> </ul>
12:30 - 12:40	<p>Letter of Intent signing ceremony.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patrick Child, Deputy Director of DG Environment of the European Commission</li> <li>• Valdas Benkuskas, Mayor of Vilnius</li> </ul> <p>„Green book“ handover ceremony.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Valdas Benkuskas, Mayor of Vilnius</li> <li>• Carlos Mundina, Councillor, responsible for Climate Improvement and the Integral Water Cycle, City of Valencia, European Green Capital 2024</li> </ul>

12:40 - 13:00	<p>„Green city in the making. The case of Vilnius”</p> <p>Speaker: Valdas Benkunskas, Mayor of Vilnius</p>
13:00 - 13:50	<p>Discussion: „How long does it take for nature to recover from the effects of war? Urban resilience in turbulent times: war, climate and ecology.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr Andrius Kubilius, Commissioner for Defence and Space (recorded speech)</li> <li>- Ms Yuliia Ovchynnykova, Member of Parliament of Ukraine (online)</li> <li>- Mr Petro Panteleiev, Deputy Mayor of Kyiv (online)</li> <li>- Mr Serhiy Kiraly, Deputy Mayor of Lviv</li> <li>- Jonas Ohmanas, Founder and head of the Blue / Yellow organization supporting Ukraine</li> </ul> <p>Moderator:</p> <p>Ms Justė Ancevičiūtė, Journalist analysing the environmental situation in Ukraine</p>
13:50 - 14:20	<p>„Green city in the making. The case of Vilnius”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Remigijus Šimašius, Vilnius City Council Member</li> <li>- Žymantas Morkvėnas, Environmental expert</li> <li>- Anton Nikitin, Chief Sustainability Officer at City of Vilnius</li> </ul> <p>Moderator:</p> <p>Rugilė Matusevičiūtė, Sustainability writer, climate change activist, EU Climate Pact ambassador</p>
14:20 - 15:00	Lunch
15:00 - 15:20	<p>Keynote speech: “Creativity as a Catalyst for Urban Transformation”</p> <p>Speaker: Fredrik Härén, Author and global keynote speaker on creativity</p>

<p>15:20 - 16:30</p>	<p>Inspiring session: „The path to greenest cities“</p> <p>European Green Capitals Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Jevgeni Ossinovski, Mayor of Tallinn, European Green Capital 2023</li> <li>• Ms Trude Rauken, Department of Environment and Transport of Oslo municipality, European Green Capital 2019</li> <li>• Mr Niko Kyynäräinen, Mayor of Lahti, European Green Capital 2021</li> <li>• Ms Margot Belair, Deputy Mayor of Grenoble, European Green Capital 2022</li> </ul> <p>European Green Leafs Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Bennita Freriks-ten Hagen, Winterswijk, European Green Leaf 2022</li> <li>• Ms Gitte Larsen, Chief consultant, Climate Secretariat at Helsingør Municipality, Elsinore, European Green Leaf 2024</li> <li>• Mr Mario Conte, Mayor of Treviso, European Green Leaf 2025</li> <li>• Mr Jordi Mazon, Deputy Mayor of Viladecans, European Green Leaf 2025</li> </ul> <p>Moderator:</p> <p>Ms Rugilė Matusevičiūtė, Sustainability writer, climate change activist, EU Climate Pact ambassador</p>
<p>16:30 – 16:40</p>	<p>Conclusion</p>
<p><b>RECEPTION</b></p> <p><b>Doors open: 19:00</b></p> <p><b>Programme starts: 19:30</b></p> <p><b>Venue: Energy and Technology Museum, Rinktinės str. 2</b></p>	